MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : Is this 25,000 tons the average increase which the Department expects by intensive cultivation or is it the increase over the average of the previous years?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Certainly not. It is the actual increase in 1119 over the production of the previous year?

PRESIDENT : The question is "what is the increase in the annual production of rice in the State in 1119?" The answer is "25,000 tons" Now what is your trouble?

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : My trouble is this. Is this production of 25,000 tons the increase over the actual production of 1118 or is it the increase over the figures fixed as the average for the previous years?

PRESIDENT : I see. You are putting a long question.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : This is the actual increase over the figures of 1118. On account of the measures that I indicated, we have produced roughly about 25,000 tons over and above what was produced in 1118.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : May I know whether the Department is selling manure at higher costs?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The cost has been reduced and brought to the market level and action will be taken against those merchants who profiteer in this business.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE : May I know whether any fee is levied for obtaining licences.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : No. Sir.

Slaughter of Cattle.

120. * MR. E. K. MADHAVAN (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the name of the officer or officers empowered to give permits for the slaughter of cattle in the municipal and non-municipal areas of Parur taluk?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Mr. T. K. George (Veterinary Inspector.)

Veterinary Hospitals in the State.

121. * MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of Veterinary Hospitals in the State ;

(*b*) the rank of Muvattupuzha taluk in the number of cattle ;

(*c*) whether the Government have received petitions requesting for a Veterinary hospital in Muvattupuzha taluk; and

(*d*) what decision has been made by the Government on these petitions?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) 17.

(*b*) Muvattupuzha takes the first rank.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter is under consideration. In the meantime an Itinerant Veterinary Inspector has been posted to Muvattupuzha to take necessary steps to control the out-breaks of contagious diseases among cattle.

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